



## U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WHARTON PROFESSOR PLEADS GUILTY** **TO CHILD PORN CHARGES**

PHILADELPHIA – Lawrence Scott Ward, 66, pleaded guilty today to two counts of inducing a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct to produce a visual depiction, two counts of transporting and shipping child pornography, and one count of making false statements to the U.S. State Department, announced Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid. At the time he committed the crimes, Ward was an Emeritus Professor of Marketing at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business. He was charged with inducing a 16-year old boy to engage in sexual activity - including with Ward - and making and shipping images of that activity into the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Ward was also accused of using his position as an Emeritus Professor at Wharton in his attempt to secure a visa for the boy from the U.S. State Department's Consulate General in Recife, Brazil, to bring the victim to the United States. In his efforts to bring the boy to the United States, Ward falsely asserted that he knew the boy's family and that they were wealthy, to dispel fears that the boy was poor and would become an illegal immigrant.

By pleading guilty today, Ward admitted that he used his University of Pennsylvania e-mail account to write to the boy, and that he then took trips to Brazil during which he caused pictures and videos to be made of the minor engaged in sexual activity. On August 7, 2006, defendant Ward sent a package by Federal Express from Maui, Hawaii, to his office at the University of Pennsylvania. The package contained six DVDs, each containing a video recording of Ward having sex with the victim on different occasions during June and July 2006. On August 8, 2006, defendant Ward mailed a package from Dulles Airport in Virginia to his University of Pennsylvania office, which contained a CD with numerous sexually explicit photographs of the 16 year old victim taken during March and April 2006.

The defendant faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment for the enticement charge, up to a total of 105 years imprisonment for all charges, a fine of up to \$1,250,000, five years of supervised release, and \$500 in special assessments when sentenced on February 19, 2009. This sentence would be separate from the 15 year sentence Ward received in the Eastern District of Virginia in June 2007 for conviction of importation of child pornography.

The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bea L. Witzleben.

November 17, 2008

Page 2

The charges in Virginia stem from defendant Ward's entry into the United States in August of 2006 in possession of additional sexually explicit images of the same minor made by the defendant in Brazil in August of 2006.

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